

Remarks

This paper responds to the Office Action in the above-entitled application, mailed August 25, 2006, and allowing one month for a response. This response is timely because it is being filed within the period set for a response.

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action groups the currently pending claims 1-9 and 38-46 to two groups: I. Claims 1-9 and II. Claims 38-46. The Office Action then holds that the inventions represented by the two groups are distinct, each from the other, and is requiring the Applicants to limit this application to one of the two groups. An election of claims 1-9 to be examined has been made with traverse.

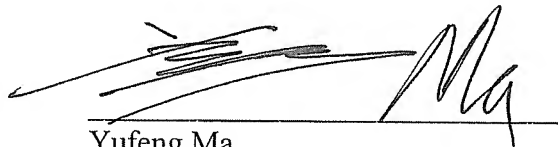
“To support a requirement for restriction between two or more related product inventions, or between two or more related process inventions, both two-way distinctness and reasons for insisting on restriction are necessary.” MPEP § 806.05(j), page 800-49 (8th Ed., Rev. 3, 2005). “If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.” MPEP § 803, page 800-4. Even assuming, for purpose of argument, that the two groups of inventions, although related, are patentably distinct, one of the “two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction between patentably distinct inventions” is that “[t]here would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required.” MPEP § 803, page 800-4 (emphasis added). The fields of search required to search the respective compositions of Groups I and II are essentially coextensive, because they are all related to a corrosive composition and a corrosion inhibitor. Therefore, there will be no serious burden on the examiner to examine all currently pending claims (1-9 and 38-46).

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the restriction requirement and examine all pending claims (1-9 and 38-46) of the present application. As an alternative, claims 1-9 have been elected for examination.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which are presently required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yufeng Ma', written over a horizontal line.

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